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NORTH DAKOTA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2005

Fatal work injuries in North Dakota totaled 22 in 2005, a slight decline from the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that the 2005 fatality count was close to the record low of 20 fatal work injuries that occurred in 1992, the year the Bureau began tracking workplace fatalities. The most frequent types of fatal workplace events in North Dakota in 2005 were falls to a lower level (4), highway crashes (3), and being struck by an object (3). Taken together, these three events¹ accounted for just under one-half of the workplace fatalities in the State.

The number of job-related fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level totaled 4 in 2005. Deaths involving this event accounted for 18 percent of the workplace fatalities in North Dakota and 12 percent nationally. (See tables A and B.)

The three on-the-job deaths due to highway crashes in the State matched the 2004 total. However, fatal work injuries resulting from highway crashes had reached a high of 10 in 2003. Highway crashes accounted for 14 percent of the work-related deaths in North Dakota in 2005 compared to 25 percent of the U.S. total.

The number of on-the-job deaths resulting from being struck by an object declined by 4 in 2005, after increasing by 2 in 2004. In 2005, workplace deaths resulting from being struck by an object accounted for 14 percent of the fatalities in North Dakota and 11 percent nationally.

¹ Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. For example, transportation incidents includes highway incidents and aircraft incidents; assaults and violent acts includes homicides and suicides; and falls includes falls to a lower level (as from a roof or ladder) and falls on the same level (as from grease on a floor or ice on a sidewalk).

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in North Dakota by selected event groups, 1992-2005

Year	Total fatalities	Falls to lower level		Highway crashes		Struck by object	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	20	3	15	4	20	--	--
1993	30	6	20	4	13	9	30
1994	21	--	--	3	14	3	14
1995	28	--	--	3	11	4	14
1996	23	--	--	5	22	5	22
1997	35	9	26	9	26	--	--
1998	24	--	--	3	13	8	33
1999	22	--	--	--	--	4	18
2000	34	4	12	3	9	5	15
2001	25	--	--	9	36	3	12
2002	25	3	12	8	32	--	--
2003	26	--	--	10	38	5	19
2004	24	--	--	3	13	7	29
2005	22	4	18	3	14	3	14

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Nationwide, a total of 5,702 fatal work injuries were reported in 2005, down about 1 percent from the revised total of 5,764 recorded in 2004. The count for 2005 was the third lowest annual total recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. (See table B.) Fatal highway crashes rose by 2 percent over the year, from 1,398 in 2004 to 1,428 in 2005. The number of deaths from highway crashes in 2005 represented about one out of every four fatal work injuries and continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities. The 662 fatal falls to a lower level recorded in 2005 represented a 10 percent decline from the series high of 738 recorded in 2004. Fatalities resulting from being struck by an object remained at about the same level as in 2004 (604 fatal work injuries in 2005 compared to 602 in 2004); nevertheless, this was the highest annual total ever reported for this event by the fatality census.

The number of workplace homicides recorded in the U.S. in 2005 changed little, from 559 incidents in 2004 to 564 in 2005. Overall, workplace homicides were down 48 percent from the high of 1,080 recorded in 1994 (excluding the 2,886 work-related homicides resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001).

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2005

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Falls to lower level		Struck by object		Homicides	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	557	9	1,044	17
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	565	9	1,074	17
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	591	9	1,080	16
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	547	9	1,036	17
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	582	9	927	15
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	579	9	860	14
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	520	9	714	12
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	585	10	651	11
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	571	10	677	11
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	553	9	643	11
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	505	9	609	11
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	531	10	632	11
2004 ²	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	602	10	559	10
2005	5,702	1,428	25	662	12	604	11	564	10

¹Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status.

²The BLS news release issued August 25, 2005, reported a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2004. Since then, an additional 61 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2004 to 5,764.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in North Dakota in 2005:

- Men accounted for 91 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 20 deaths. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for over one-third of these deaths. (See table 2.)
- In North Dakota, all of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 59 percent of the State's work-related fatalities in 2005; 32 percent were 55 years or older.
- Fatalities in North Dakota were evenly split between the self-employed and wage and salary workers.
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector had the largest number of fatalities (11). The most frequent type of fatal event in this industry was transportation incidents (6). (See table 3.)
- Workers in management jobs led all other occupational groups with 9 fatalities. Managers of farmers and ranchers accounted for eight of these fatalities. Workers in transportation and material moving jobs suffered five work-related deaths and construction and extraction workers who died on the job totaled three. Within management occupations, fatalities were evenly split between transportation incidents and contact with objects and equipment. Among transportation and material moving workers, the majority of the fatalities (4)

were related to transportation incidents, whereas falls were responsible for all the deaths of the construction and extraction workers. (See table 4.)

Additional data available

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available from the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm. Data tables for 2005 are available for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and selected metropolitan areas. Detailed data may be accessed through the online query system located at <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=fi>. For additional information or assistance, please contact the Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880, menu option 0.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, provides a complete count of fatal work injuries available. The program uses diverse State and Federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to Federal and State agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by Federal and State agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2005 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many

occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work exposures make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various Federal, State, and local administrative sources—including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports—as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Federal/State agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other Federal or State agencies or is outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several Federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other Federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any Federal or State agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 20 percent of the nation's fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent; and State and local government employees in States without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the States have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover State and local government employees).

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the efforts of all Federal, State, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these

agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; State vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; State departments of health, labor and industries and workers' compensation agencies; State and local police departments; and State farm bureaus.

TABLE 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry¹ sector, North Dakota, 2005

Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construction	Manufacturing	Total service providing	Trade, transportation, and utilities	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total.....	22	14	11	--	--	8	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	5	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object.....	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	5	--	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	9	6	6	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2005 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, North Dakota, 2005

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ¹					
		Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	22	9	--	5	5	3	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	11	4	--	--	5	--	--
Self-employed ⁵	11	5	--	4	--	--	--
Sex							
Men.....	20	7	--	5	5	3	--
Women.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	22	9	--	5	5	3	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

² Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

⁶ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2005 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, North Dakota, 2005

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		22	9	--	5	5	3	--
Private Industry		22	9	--	5	5	3	--
Goods Producing		14	6	--	5	--	--	--
Natural Resources and Mining		11	6	--	4	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	11	6	--	4	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	8	4	--	3	--	--	--
Service providing		8	3	--	--	3	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		7	3	--	--	3	--	--
Wholesale Trade	42	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁵ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

⁶ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2005 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, North Dakota, 2005

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
		Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	22	9	--	5	5	3	--
Management occupations.....	9	4	--	4	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	9	4	--	4	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	9	4	--	4	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	8	3	--	4	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	3	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	3	--	--	--	3	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2005 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.